

The Systematics of the Tribe Plectoderini in America North of Mexico (Homoptera: Fulgoroidea, Achillidae). 1971. Lois Breimeier O'Brien. University of California Press. 80 pp. \$3.00.

The author states that this revision of the tribe Plectoderini in America north of Mexico is based on an evaluation of morphological characters and host associations. The 32 previously known species from this area have been referred to the genus *Catonia*. Eleven of these species are found east of the 100th meridian and 21 are described from California and Arizona. Eight new species are described.

A comparison made with the known West Indian and Central American faunas show that 3 of the United States species belong in the genera *Opsiplanom* or *Momar*. Three new genera, predominantly western (*Juniperia*, *Synecdoche*, and *Xerbus*) are established in this paper. Eight of the eastern species plus 2 western ones are retained in the genus *Catonia*. Thus the 40 species belong to 6 genera.

A Field Guide to the Butterflies and Burnets of Spain. W. B. L. Manley and H. G. Allard. Hampton, Middlesex, England, E. W. Classey, Ltd., pp. 1-192, col. pls. 1 + 1-40. Obtainable in the U. S. A. from Entomological Reprint Specialists, P. O. Box 77971, Dockweiler Sta., Los Angeles, California, 90007. \$37.50.

At first glance anyone accustomed to the more or less pocket-sized books called Field Guides and Field Books that have proliferated in recent years will wonder why this book is called a "field guide." Certainly its $8\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inch size will not fit very well into a collecting bag; and its sumptuous appearance, with hundreds of beautifully accurate color illustrations, would seem to fit it better for the role of a cocktail-table conversation piece. However, it is truly a field guide, among its other virtues, because of the enormous amount of detailed information given about exact localities, environments, food plants and dates which will guide the collector to his quarry. It would be even more useful if a few maps had been included. But it is sure to prove one of the most useful of collecting aids; and I suspect that it will greatly increase the numbers of collectors visiting the Iberian Peninsula, and that most of them will carry copies.

In addition to Spain, which is covered in great detail, Madeira and the Balearic and Canary Islands are treated in separate sections; and records and other details about Portugal are included in the main text. (Readers of this review will be interested to learn that the chief reference for Portuguese butterflies is that of Zerkowitz, 1946, *Journal of the New York Entomological Society*, vol. 54.)

The Burnets, by the way, are a most unusual group of Old World day-flying moths (Zygaenidae) with bold patterns mostly of iridescent green and red. We have none in North America. They have long been special favorites with collectors (I have heard this called zygaenomania) who industriously catalogue every variation of color and pattern and name these by the hundreds as "subspecies," varieties, forms or aberrations at, we might venture, the drop of a bonnet. This was the sort of excess that led the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature to bar infrasubspecific names from formal scientific nomenclature; and this in turn has stimulated the naming of a great deal of nonsense as "subspecies."

The Iberian Peninsula is a happy hunting ground for students of variation, having great climatic diversity and a very varied, largely mountainous terrain. It has many alpine species, relics from the Pleistocene glaciations, and also many Mediterranean and African elements. This has led to a proliferation of "subspecies" names that often seems